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AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

January 16, 2020

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The auto industry helped build America's middle class. Today, I write to ask for your assistance and intervention on behalf of the Delphi retirees who have lost a substantial portion of the pensions in the aftermath of the Delphi and GM bankruptcies. These pensions and all pensions are, in fact, deferred wages that are owed to the employees. What has happened to the Delphi retirees is unfair, but it can be corrected through your intervention.

In 1999, Delphi was created through the spinoff of the automotive components group from General Motors. The majority of the Delphi employees spent two-thirds of their careers as GM employees. In 2005, Delphi entered bankruptcy protection. As part of the restructuring of the company, many long-term employees were forced into early retirement. Early retirement or supplemental benefits are not guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. In February 2009, the Delphi salaried retirees lost their health care benefits for themselves and their families. On July 31, 2009, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation terminated Delphi's pension plans and became the trustee as of August 10, 2009.

In the case of Delphi hourly employees under certain collective bargaining agreements, GM agreed to make up the difference between the PBGC benefit and what the retiree had earned. The Delphi salaried employees and some of the hourly employees such as those represented by the International Union of Operating Engineers, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and the Machinists unions had no such agreement and—since their plan was overtaken by the PBGC—have been subject to drastic reductions in their pension benefits.

The Delphi Salaried Retirees have fought in the courts for many years to claim what is rightfully theirs--so far to no avail. Now Mr. President they are looking to you for fair treatment and I urge you to respond favorably to their request.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

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